

The Sun

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As We Pay Honor to the Dead.

In France, in England, in Italy, in Belgium, in Siberia, in Russia in Europe there are new made graves to be decorated to-day. In the bosom of the deep our soldiers and sailors sleep their long sleep. Wherever the American flag flies in this country and its possessions there are families from which men went forth at the call of their country, quick to their duty, never to return. Decoration Day, rich in historic meaning and lofty sentiment, has in 1919 a deeper significance for all of us than it has ever had before.

The nation will do less than justice to its dead if on this occasion it does no more than give testimony to its sorrow for their passing and the honor and gratitude in which it holds their memories.

Deep in the consciousness of every American lies the accusing knowledge that many of these brave were sacrificed because their country called on them to make good by their strength, their native wit, their unmeasured valor the deficit of training and equipment a mistaken national policy imposed on them. No man can read the record of the struggle in which their blood was cheerfully given without uneasy recognition of the fact that years of tolerance of a makeshift military policy cost us in the crisis a heavy toll of lives. No man can survey the history of the two years now closing without being impressed with the monumental errors that made a hard task harder, a war inevitably costly in human life more costly than it might have been.

It does not bring comfort to the parents whose son is gone, to the child whose father is no more, to the wife whose husband will never return again to be told that when the war ended we were getting in a position to arm and protect our soldiers as they should have been armed and protected when they went out to battle. It does not bring comfort to the American man or woman, to be told that at the end of the conflict we were where we should have been in armament and methods when the conflict opened. It reflects only discredit on our public policy that not until we declared war on Germany did we begin to provide for the men to whom the command and supply of our forces abroad and at home was to fall the opportunities they had diligently sought for years to prepare themselves more thoroughly for their tremendous task.

These things no sane patriot can erase from his mind to-day as his heart fills with sorrow for the dead and sympathy for the bereaved. We owe to the living and to generations yet unborn the correction of our policy and the avoidance of a repetition of the errors of the past.

Ex-President Taft Should Open His Own Eyes.

In his zealous advocacy of the League of Nations ex-President Taft has committed himself to a number of declarations completely foreign to the judicial temperament and likely to cause him considerable embarrassment when he quits the stump and again installs himself in the now somewhat agitated but soon to be calm academic halls that constitute his scholastic headquarters in the city of New Haven.

None of these heated lapses from the high plane on which Mr. Taft would naturally desire to have discussion of a problem of statecraft proceed has been more singular than his attempted refutation of an argument against the league put forward by ex-Senator Beveridge, paraphrased by Mr. Taft in this form:

"Mr. Taft quoted Mr. Beveridge as having said that the world was so much indebted to the United States for the benefit of the world that the United States could not afford to give up her right to conquer."

To discern in Senator Beveridge's

evidence that Mr. Beveridge's inspiration or thought bore the brand "made in Germany" it would indeed be necessary to close the eyes; necessary to close them against the admission of every particle of light on the subject in dispute. Only a man wilfully blind to the facts in the case, perversely blind to the natural and thoroughly respectable conception of public duty and patriotic obligation that lies behind Mr. Beveridge's words, could see the legend Mr. Taft called on his hearers to visualize.

Mr. Taft having advised his fellow citizens to close their eyes to the facts, and in the obscuration of the faculty of sight thus obtained to do a gross injustice to Mr. Beveridge, The Sun takes the liberty of suggesting to Mr. Taft that he open his own eyes and examine with particular care the situation to which his activities as a partisan of the League of Nations have brought him. The trouble is that Mr. Taft has kept his eyes shut too long to the facts that are written big across the face of the covenant of the League of Nations.

Socialism's Dullest Side.
Mr. HANFORD HENDERSON, with drawing from publication a socialistic book written by himself, announces that he "now sees that Government ownership and interference, and paternalism generally, are contrary to the highest social welfare, and tend to make a people inefficient, unjust and singularly uninteresting."

The first two counts of the indictment, inefficiency and injustice, need hardly be taken into the court of American public opinion. After the experience of the United States with Government control of railroads and wires the verdict is unanimous against socialism, no matter how it may be disguised.

That socialism is "singularly uninteresting" is the point which appeals most to the imagination, although it is the point which the socialists seem never to consider. The individual human has always been the most interesting of visible things, whether he or she is on the earth, in the air or under the sea; in the subway or on the battlefield or in the cradle. This country raised twenty billions or so for war because each and every John Smith felt that the war would be lost if he, John Smith, did not dig deep in his pocket. We fed Europe because each American on going to his meals found his conscience sitting on his plate.

The singularly interesting thing about the singularly uninterestingness of socialism is that the nearer that method of government got to the perfection its followers promise for the dueller and more deadly existence would be. When individualism at last was locked up in a Marxian tomb with the corpse of ambition life would be as stupid as last year's telephone book.

Hawker's Misapprehension.

Young Mr. HAWKER evidently did not have time to read carefully the newspaper accounts of the preparations for the United States Navy sea-plane flights to Lisbon. Otherwise he would not have said, as he said on Wednesday night at a dinner in London, that the American flight was "not a serious attempt" with a ship stationed "every twenty yards." And he added:

"If you put a ship every fifty miles it shows you have no faith in your motor."

The United States Navy, which had planned the trip for two years, stationed ships at intervals of fifty miles along the route not because of any lack of faith in its men or its motor, but because of its desire that none of the eighteen brave men who sailed for Portugal should perish through lack of precaution. The preparations taken were those which England cried should have been taken by the British Admiralty to protect HAWKER.

In deriding the American accomplishment the Australian airman is not consistent. On Tuesday, in explaining why he started so suddenly, he said to the correspondent of the London Daily Mail at Edinburgh:

"The Americans were off. They were very serious propositions. They had one leg to go and we had one to go. We knew that one American machine had reached the Azores. That was very serious, and we decided overnight that we would start if the weather was at all hopeful."

Apparently HAWKER looked upon the European flight as an attempt to reach Europe ahead of the men who were preparing to fly for the \$50,000 prize. This was of course a false impression, for the start of the Americans was regulated entirely by Navy Department orders issued in the middle of April. For the Yankees it was not a race but an attempt to carry out a carefully arranged programme. HAWKER knew, even before the sea-planes left Rockaway, that their course would be patrolled by destroyers. Then why, if the American fleet was negligible, should it have spurred HAWKER to hop off? If the Americans were "a serious proposition" before HAWKER so daringly tried and failed, why does he now regard their successful voyage as "not a serious attempt?"

Unfortunately for HAWKER's new mental posture, the cold facts of accomplishment are against him. Each one of the three American planes flew further than HAWKER flew. Commander TOWERS, although he failed to hit the mark, flew further than any man up to that day had travelled continuously in the air. His crown is not as bright as REARD's, for that officer was able to carry out to the letter the orders of the Navy Department. TOWERS's flight of 1,250

miles and REARD's of 1,210 were real steps in science as well as courageous adventures. When it was reported—the report having since been denied—that their records were beaten a few days later by the Frenchman Lieutenant ROGER in a non-stop flight of 1,366 miles from France to Africa nobody derided ROGER because most of his voyage was over the land.

The implied suggestion of HAWKER that the Americans' feat is negligible because they had some protection is a piece with laughing at a machinist because he wears goggles or at an electrician because he puts on rubber gloves when he handles wires. There is a vast difference between the courageous and the foolhardy; between Dr. JAMES CANNON, submitting himself to the bite of a mosquito carrying yellow fever, and Mr. STAVE BAKER, jumping off Brooklyn Bridge. Mr. BAKER proved only that he was up to the feat. In the same way, while the American airman, taking advantage of all precautions—yet undervaluing, in the case of TOWERS and his men, more hardship than HAWKER experienced—proved exactly what they set out to demonstrate—the general utility of the seaplane in the air and on the water—HAWKER proved nothing except his unflinching bravery. For this the world has given him due credit. As for his lack of graciousness, he is young and perhaps of a temperament to which failure is more bitter than death. He would better have remembered what Lord NORTHCLIFFE philosophically remarks, that the Americans have still left to Britain the problem of a direct flight from America to Europe.

Daylight Saving Scores a Point for Reform in Congress.
By the act of the House Rules Committee in refusing to permit the daylight saving repealer to ride into the statute book on the agricultural appropriation bill, the committee has shown that it is set on its own feet, and will stand or fall according to the judgment of the Representatives and Senators as to its merits. The decision of the Rules Committee is an incident of the application of its policy to prevent legislation by riders on appropriation bills, a policy in every way admirable and worthy of strict and impartial enforcement.

Had the daylight saving law repeal bill been allowed to remain in the agricultural appropriation bill it might have passed Congress because the appropriations were urgently needed, or because some member wanted seeds to distribute to his constituents, or because the cotton boll weevil was so deplorably active, or for any one of a hundred reasons not even remotely associated with the setting ahead of the hands on the clock dials of the nation. A great many more or less pernicious enactments have got through Congress in this way. It is high time to suppress the practice and draw the appropriation measures in accordance with their titles.

The assailants of daylight saving must now put their contentions forward on their merits. They cannot hide behind the routine necessities of the Government. The supporters of the law can defend it without being put in the position of opposing measures whose enactment is required by the needs of the country. Under these circumstances there should be little difficulty in convincing Congress that daylight saving is worth preserving because it contributes to the wealth, the health and the comfort of the vast majority of Americans.

Changes in Siberia.
Siberia shows signs of playing an unexpected part in after war reconstruction. It is the rallying ground of supporters of order in Russia, the Kolchak Government at Omsk is foremost in the war on Bolshevism, and there is a prospect that the long delayed development of Siberia's natural resources may now be begun on an adequate scale.

Refugees from European Russia have crowded to Siberia by millions, according to an account of the possibilities of trade between Siberia and the United States. Omsk, Tomsk and Irkutsk have housing problems far worse than New York's. The Trans-Siberian Railway is short of passenger cars because the coaches are used at all important stations for housing refugees and as Government offices. The influx of new population may do for western Asia what other migrations have done for America and South Africa.

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The road from the west is barred by revolution. It will be some time before the Trans-Siberian Railway can meet traffic requirements by way of the east and Vladivostok. Yet people who deserve respect will find a way, and this summer there will be available the route used by old Norse traders centuries ago, by way of the Kara Sea and the Obi and Yenesei rivers, which reach rich agricultural regions in the heart of Siberia. Ice closes the Kara Sea all the year except a period of about six weeks between the last of June and the first of September; the open season might be prolonged by ice breakers, and it is suggested that the German battleships might be employed profitably in work of this kind.

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Siberia. In any case it is likely old ideas about Siberia will have to be revised; it is a land of hope, not the land of despair it was. The change began before the war, and recent circumstances have hastened the process. Of the refugees many will return to Russia when order is restored, but many others will remain to make new homes for themselves and to develop Siberia's resources, thus benefiting themselves and the world.

While anarchy still exists in wide areas of Siberia, and while many difficult problems remain to be settled, a promising start seems to have been made on the road leading to prosperity. Not the least remarkable feature of the situation is that Bolshevism should have made little headway in a land to which unnumbered thousands were exiled for their revolutionary opinions under the regime of the Czar. The explanation is that a large part of the population consists of small land holders, who are naturally opposed to socialistic schemes for the division of property.

The Mad Wittelsbachs.
To the "mad kings" of Bavaria must apparently be added the last of the line, the aged King Ludwig III. The former Bavarian ruler has been living in the Swiss mountains near the headwaters of the Rhine, and according to a Geneva despatch, his insanity has appeared as a megalomania, a form in which mental disease has manifested itself in other members of the Wittelsbach family.

Of Ludwig's two immediate predecessors on the throne, Otto was practically a prisoner from the day he was crowned to his death; Ludwig II, after a reign marked by profligate extravagance, was declared insane and a regent was appointed for the kingdom. Bavaria was indebted to Mad Ludwig for the magnificent "Bavarian Versailles," on an island in the Chiemsee, and for that superb reproduction of a medieval castle the new Schwamstein. But these buildings and his other grandiose schemes bankrupted the ruler and impoverished the national treasury.

Even in their severe struggle with new conditions of government the hard headed Bavarians may find a reason for congratulation in the fact that they are at least free from the rule of the mad kings which they have been forced to endure for the past century.

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WILLIAM H. FORBES.

IMPORTS AND LABOR.

Effect on Home Industry of the Competition of Goods From Abroad.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: The editorial article in The Sun entitled "Imports: Mountain High" is timely reading. May not the effect of such heavy imports be to make the labor market inelastic just when it needs to be most elastic to reemploy our homecoming boys?

When our civil war closed the American people were compelled by war emergency and tariffs very largely to prefer American production, and the consequence was that the homecoming troops were rapidly absorbed by the rubber gloves when he handles wires. There is a vast difference between the courageous and the foolhardy; between Dr. JAMES CANNON, submitting himself to the bite of a mosquito carrying yellow fever, and Mr. STAVE BAKER, jumping off Brooklyn Bridge. Mr. BAKER proved only that he was up to the feat. In the same way, while the American airman, taking advantage of all precautions—yet undervaluing, in the case of TOWERS and his men, more hardship than HAWKER experienced—proved exactly what they set out to demonstrate—the general utility of the seaplane in the air and on the water—HAWKER proved nothing except his unflinching bravery. For this the world has given him due credit. As for his lack of graciousness, he is young and perhaps of a temperament to which failure is more bitter than death. He would better have remembered what Lord NORTHCLIFFE philosophically remarks, that the Americans have still left to Britain the problem of a direct flight from America to Europe.

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THE GREATEST UNKNOWN.

More Nominations for the Niche of Nonentity.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: The most unknown man in the world is some dominating dame's husband. RABBITMAN, N. J., May 29.

A Tall, Cool Fellow Who May Disappear on July 1.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: Tom Collins is the most universally, or was at one time the most universally, unknown man in the world. That he is or was a corporeal entity no one who has ever asked about him doubted; but though many searched for him no one is ever known to have found him. Put him in the category of happy men! FINDLAY SACKETT.

New York, May 29.

True, but There Are Several of Him.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: Who is the least known man in the world? Easy enough; the man who doesn't advertise. SIDNEY S. TOMAN.

New York, May 29.

A Strong Candidate Found in the South.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: My candidate is a gentleman who resides in every Southern State, but mainly in Georgia, Tennessee, Mississippi and Texas; a man of often wealth, popularity and influence in his home town. He is "the most unknown man in the world."

Sometimes for obvious reasons he chooses the gloom of darkness, he is a quiet slumberer of midnight, in which to perform his humanitarian services; and at other times he prefers the pale, dim light of the moon, the faint, silvery radiance of the stars, in which to go forth on his errands of goodness and mercy; and then again he selects the noonday, the glaring and unobscured light of the sun, in which to teach his hundreds of followers and disciples those traditional lessons of chivalry, gallantry and love.

So much reverence did Governor Cole Blease of South Carolina have for this saintly gentleman, that he, the Governor, threatened to "renounce his crown" rather than offend him. And so much enthusiasm did a Governor of Georgia feel for my nominee that on one occasion he travelled in a specially chartered train from Atlanta to Georgia, Ga., to attend a big open